

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00841 010719Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MED-02 SY-05 MCT-01 SCS-06 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 AID-05
/055 W

-----125687 020949Z /11

R 010621Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
SECSTATE WASHDC 6351
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USLO RIYADH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DHAHRAN 0841

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AMED, ASEC
SUBJ: ACID SPRAYING INCIDENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF: (A) DHAHRAN 0803, (B) JIDDA 4737,

1. CIRCUMSTANCES OF ACID SPRAYING INCIDENTS APPEAR TO
HAOE BEEN MADE ON FOREIGN WOMEN AND NOT EXCLUSIVELY
WESTERN EXPATRIATE WOMEN. WOMEN INVOLVED HAVE
GENERALLY BEEN DRESSED IN SLACKS AND MODEST TOPS
SO THAT PROVOCATIVECLOTHING BY LOCAL STANDARDS
DOES NOT SEEM TO BE DETERMINANT OF ATTACKS. ALL
REPORTED INCIDENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN OR CLOSE
BY MAIN SHOPPING AREA OF AL-KHOBAR. IT SHOULD BE
NOTED THAT NO ADDITIONAL ATTACKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED
SINCE 20 JUNE.

2. WHILE LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE REACTED WITH GREAT
CONCERN TO REPORTS OF THE ATTACKS, NO SUSPECTS
ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD TO THIS POST'S KNOWLEDGE.
APPREHENSION OF CULPRITS HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE
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FACT THAT IN NEARLY ALL CASES WOMEN HAVE NOT NOTICED
ACID ON THEIR CLOTHING, UNTIL WELL AWAY FROM THE SITE
OF THE ATTACKS. LOCAL SAG OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO
SPECULATED THAT THE ATTACKS COULD BE A PRACTICULARLY
DESTRUCTIVE PRANK. MANY OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO NOTED
THAT THE DRESS OF WESTERN WOMEN IN TOWN HAS ALSO
BECOME QUOTE TOO EXTREME UNQUOTE FOR THE LOCAL

POPULATION. SEVERAL OF THE ATTACKED WOMEN HAVE
RECALLED BEING BUMPED BY YOUNG MEN IN ARAB
DRESS SHORTLY BEFORE ACID WAS NOTICED ON THEIR
CLOTHING. POST WILL ADVISE OF CONTINUING POLICE
EFFORTS TO APPREHEND THOSE RESPONSIBLE. FOR THE
TIME BEING, IT APPEARS THAT INCREASED VISIBILITY
OF POLICE IN DOWNTOWN AL-KHOBAR HAS PRE-EMPTED
FURTHER ATTACKS.

MEYERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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